

2021 WATER QUALITY REPORT



Municipal Water Supply Eau Claire, WI

The purpose of this report is to summarize the results of the water testing conducted on the Eau Claire water system during the calendar year of 2021. The report has been prepared to meet the requirements of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) adopted by Congress and to provide our customers with information about their municipal water system. We take pride in the quality of the drinking water supplied to our customers and continue to work diligently to assure the delivery of reliable and safe water.

The Eau Claire Water Utility encourages public interest and participation in our Community's decisions affecting drinking water. For information on the water system, contact the Water Utility by telephone at (715) 839-5045 or by writing to Utilities Manager, 203 S. Farwell Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701. Regular City Council public discussion meetings are held on the Monday preceding the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month in the Council Chambers, located in City Hall at 203 S. Farwell Street, at 7:00 p.m. Please contact the City Manager's Office at (715) 839-4902 to have an item placed on the agenda or to make arrangements for reasonable accommodation.

Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunosuppressed persons such as persons with cancer, undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from health care providers.

EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Cryptosporidium is a problem associated with surface water supplies. Eau Claire obtains its water from

groundwater supplies and is therefore not expected to be subject to the problems typically associated with Cryptosporidium.

If you are interested in more information, please contact the Water Utility at (715) 839-5045. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Water Source

The Eau Claire Water Utility draws water from 16 wells located in the City well field on Riverview Drive. The wells pump groundwater to the water treatment plant. The water treatment plant filters the water to remove iron and manganese before it is pumped into the water distribution system. These minerals do not pose a health concern and are removed because they can discolor the water and create a slight taste of iron.

The water is also chlorinated for disinfection and fluoride is added for dental purposes before it is pumped into the water pipe system.

The City does **not** take surface water directly from the Chippewa River. The wells intercept water that is slowly moving in the ground towards the Chippewa River. As the water passes through the ground it can pick up

dissolved minerals and in some cases substances that result from human or animal activity. For these reasons extensive testing is conducted on the water as it is pumped from the wells and after it has been treated and delivered into the distribution system. The testing is conducted at certified laboratories. A source water assessment is required for all public water systems.

The assessment identifies land areas that contribute water to each system, significant potential contaminant sources within those areas, and the susceptibility of the drinking water systems to contamination. A summary of the source water assessment for Eau Claire Waterworks is available at: [https://prodoasext.dnr.wi.gov/inter1/pws2\\$ws_web_ep_source.startup?P_PWS_RO_SEQ_NO=145622&P_0=145622&Z_CHK=45162](https://prodoasext.dnr.wi.gov/inter1/pws2$ws_web_ep_source.startup?P_PWS_RO_SEQ_NO=145622&P_0=145622&Z_CHK=45162)

Important Information for our Hmong Customers

This is important information about drinking water in the City of Eau Claire. If you cannot read this, please have someone interpret it for you.

Ntawm no yog cov lus tseem ceeb qhia txog kev haus dej nyob rau hauv ntawm Eau Claire. Yog nej nyeem tsis tau no thov neeg txhais cov lus hauv no rau nej.

Educational Information

The sources of drinking water, both tap water and bottled water, include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ◆ Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- ◆ Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- ◆ Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- ◆ Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- ◆ Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- ◆ Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Eau Claire Waterworks is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.
- ◆ Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.
- ◆ Lead and copper sampling performed in 2020 per WDNR requirements produced the following results: Lead—0 of 31 samples collected were above the action level of 15 ppb. Copper—0 of 31 samples were above the action level of 1.3 ppm.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old.

WATER QUALITY TABLE - 2021

Detected Substances

This report is based upon tests conducted in the year of 2021 by the Eau Claire Water Utility. The results of the testing are summarized on the table included with this report. Although many tests were run to detect possible contaminants, only those actually found as a result of the testing, that have a health related limit, are shown in the table.

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Violation	Source
Disinfection Byproducts						
TTHM (ppb)	80	0	31.1	29.1 — 31.0	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	60	n/a	4.0	2 – 6	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants						
ARSENIC (ppb)	10	n/a	0.004	0.004	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
BARIUM (ppm)	2	2	0.0044	0.0044	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
CHROMIUM (ppm)	100	100	1	1	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
FLUORIDE (ppm)	4	4	0.3	0.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NITRATE (N03-N) (ppm)	10	10	1.10	1.10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SODIUM (ppm)	n/a	n/a	12.00	12.00	No	n/a
COPPER (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.0000	0 of 31 results were above the action level	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD (ppb)	AL=15	0	3.70	0 of 31 results were above the action level	No*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminants						
CHLORIDE (ppm)	250	n/a	24.00	24.00	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, road salt, water softeners
SULFATE (ppm)	250	n/a	6.30	6.00—6.30	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes

* Systems exceeding a lead and/or copper action level must take actions to reduce lead and/or copper in the drinking water. The lead and copper values represent the 90th percentile of all compliance samples collected. If you want information on the NUMBER of sites or the actions taken to reduce these levels, please contact your water supply operator.

PFAS Contaminants with a Recommended Health Advisory Level

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950's. The following table list PFAS contaminants which were detected in your water and that have a recommended Health Advisory Level (HAL). There are no violations for detections of contaminants that exceed recommended Health Advisory Levels. The Recommended Health Advisory Levels are levels at which concentrations of the contaminant present a health risk and are based on guidance provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Scientists are still learning about the health effects that various PFAS can have on the body. To date, studies among people that have high levels of certain PFAS can increase cholesterol levels, decrease antibody levels in response to vaccines, and decrease fertility in women. People can reduce their risk of health effects by reducing their exposure to PFAS.

Contaminant (units)	Site	Recommended HAL (PPT)	Level Found	Range	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contaminant
N-Ethyl Perfluorooctane sulfonamide (NEtFOSA) ppt	Entry Point	20 ppt	0	0	2021	<i>Drinking water is one way that people can be exposed to PFAS. In Wisconsin, two-thirds of people use groundwater as their drinking water source. PFAS can get in groundwater from places that make or use PFAS and releases from certain types of waste in landfills.</i>
N-Ethyl perfluorooctane sulfonamidoacetic acid (NEtFOSAA)	Entry Point	20 ppt	0	0	2021	
N-Ethyl perfluorooctane sulfonamidoethanol (NEtFOSE)	Entry Point	20 ppt	0	0	2021	
Perfluorooctane sulfonamide (PFOSA or FOSA)	Entry Point	20 ppt	2.0	0 – 2.0	2021	
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	Entry Point	20 ppt	3.4	0 – 3.4	2021	
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	Entry Point	20 ppt	14.0	0 – 14.0	2021	
* Combined PFOSA, NEt-FOSE, NEt-FOSA, Net-FOSAA, PFOS, and PFOA	Entry Point	20 ppt	2.0	0 – 2.0	2021	
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HPFO-DA; GenX)	Entry Point	300 ppt	0	0	2021	
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	Entry Point	450,000 ppt	4.4	1.0 – 4.4	2021	
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	Entry Point	40 ppt	36.0	2.0 – 36.0	2021	
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	Entry Point	10,000 ppt	4.7	0 – 4.7	2021	
Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	Entry Point	300 ppt	0	0	2021	
Perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDoA)	Entry Point	500 ppt	0	0	2021	
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	Entry Point	150,000 ppt	6.9	0 – 6.9	2021	
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	Entry Point	30 ppt	0.51	0 – 0.51	2021	
Perfluorotetradecanoic acid (PFTeA)	Entry Point	10,000 ppt	0	0	2021	
Perfluoroundecanoic acid (PFUnA)	Entry Point	3,000 ppt	0	0	2021	

The City of Eau Claire conducted proactive sampling of its drinking water for PFAS on 4/26/21 which revealed small levels of PFAS in the water supply below recommended enforcement standards. Additional voluntary testing of wells informed the City which wells to shut off to lower Entry Point PFAS levels even further.

* Note: DHS recommends a combined enforcement standard of 20 ng/L for PFOSA, NEt-FOSE, NEt-FOSA, NetFOSAA, PFOS, and PFOA. The recommended limit is 20 ppt for any one of these six compounds or the combined total of all six.

Radioactive Contaminants						
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. R & U (pCi/l)	15	0	0.3	0.0-0.8	No	Erosion of natural
RADIUM, (226+228) (pCi/l)	5	0	0.2	0.0-0.8	No	Erosion of natural deposits
KEY	Term	Definition				
	AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.				
	HAL	Health Advisory Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice.				
	MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.				
	MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.				
	ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)				
	ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)				

Number of Contaminants Required to be Tested

This table displays the number of contaminants that were required to be tested in the last five years. The CCR may contain up to five years worth of water quality results. If a water system tests annually or more frequently, the results from the most recent year are shown on the CCR. If testing is done less frequently, the results shown on the CCR are from the past five years.

<u>Contaminant Group</u>	<u># of Contaminants Tested</u>
Disinfection Byproducts	9
Inorganic Contaminants	19
Microbiological Contaminants	2
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides	18
Unregulated Contaminants	21
Volatile Organic Contaminants	41
Radioactive Contaminants	3
Volatile Organic Contaminants	20